



# 2023 LA RONDE

## TASTING NOTES

This La Ronde is a trickster of a wine, leading you in multiple directions at once. Up front you'll observe medium ruby color and a nose filled with intriguing red fruit tinged with cedar spice, flowing through blackberry-scented brambles. But it fills the mouth not with red but with the blackest of black flavors: salal, cassis, licorice and other raven complexities; it's subtle, not intense. If you swallow quickly, the flavors vanish, but if you hold it in your mouth for a while first, the finish extends tenfold in elegant refinement. You'll need to spend some time with La Ronde to suss out all of its many ways...

*Medium-bodied, medium-minus acid, medium tannin*

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Creating a blend is one of the best ways to make the most out of any vintage, and it is part of what makes the La Ronde a standout, year after year. La Ronde is a blend of Bordeaux varieties, but combined in very non-traditional amounts. More typical would be a blend focused on Cabernet or Merlot, with a little bit of Petit Verdot for color and character. In this wine we require all three to contribute substantially and share the spotlight. In these proportions they harmony they sing is compelling and delightful.

### Composition

44% Cabernet, 33% Petit Verdot,  
23% Merlot

### Vineyard

Multiple

### Appellation

Washington

### Crush Pad

Destem and light crush

### Yeast

D254

### Fermentation

Small open-top fermenters, punched  
down by hand

### Malolactic Fermentation

Yes

### Aging

20 months in barrels

### Oak

34%

### Fining/Filtration

Cross-flow filtration

### Alcohol

14.2%

### Production

395 cases

### Bottled

June 30, 2025



eleven



## FOOD PAIRINGS

Pair it with steak, meat pies, posh burgers, smoked salmon, roast duck, cured meats, sharp cheddar, aged gouda, mimolette... yum! Also try it with cozy meals and occasions like meatloaf, lasagne, sitting by the fire and winter holiday dinners.

## VINTAGE DETAILS

The 2023 vintage got off to a late, cool start, but then raced ahead with warm temperatures, making up ground throughout the growing season and even tracking slightly ahead of average by mid-July. A brief heat spike in August caused issues in some varieties but didn't slow down the speeding train of ripening. Harvest started off with a fury, bringing home one variety after another day after day. Yields were widely variable, and things were changing so quickly that yield forecasts sometimes turned out to be significantly higher or lower than expected when the grapes were harvested. This means that we got more of some varieties than expected, and less of others. The good news is that the quality was very good in nearly everything, so we are expecting some great wines from the vintage.

## GRAPE VARIETY INFO

Merlot and Cabernet are the two most widely grown grape varieties on the planet; Petit Verdot is much further down the rankings. All three are traditionally grown in Bordeaux, have small berries and generally small, loose clusters, and flavors that work well together.

## FUN FACTS

La Ronde translates as "the Tour", which is a part of the name of many races, but in this case the race is the Ronde, the Ronde van Vlaanderen, the Tour of Flanders, another of the biggest single-day races of the year. Like a wine blend, it's a race that brings together various components to produce a great champion. In the case of the race, those components are 160 miles of narrow winding roads, wind, and short but very steep hills paved with cobblestones. If that sounds challenging, it is intentionally so – for most, we recommend sticking with the wine. It goes down much easier but still has a finish to remember.

## AWARDS

Yet to be entered into competitions.



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